

Position 3

The positions, where the weaker side has two same coloured bishops, are the most difficult ones in this type of endgames. It is important to remember, that placing the king on h1 and the bishops on f1 and h3 is not enough to make a draw, as the defending side needs more space.



1. ♖f2 Because of the threat 2. ♜g3, enclosing the king in the corner, Black needs to connect his bishops.

1... ♗dc6!

1... ♗df7? A trap move! Black is trying to close the line by playing ♗g6 2. ♜g1 ♗d5 and now trying to close on g2 3. ♜g3+ ♖h2 4. ♖b2 White managed to liberate the king.

White is also winning after 1... ♗ec6? To hold the bishops on the long diagonal is not the best idea, as they should be ideally placed on e2 and g4. 2. ♖b2 ♗e4 3. ♖c3 ♗ed5 4. ♖d4 ♗f3 By remaining inactive, Black would make White's plan easy to achieve, for example: 4... ♗e4 5. ♖e3 ♗ed5 6. ♖f4

♗e4 7. ♗d4 ♗f3 8. ♗f6 ♗h5 9. ♜g3+ ♖h2 10. ♗e5 ♗g2 Because the field e2 is under control, the manoeuvre ♖e3-e2 is not possible, and 11. ♜g7 is leading to a position which will be analysed a bit lower in the text. But White has an easier way of winning the game, based on the threat of a double check:

11. ♖g5! ♗e8 12. ♜e3+ ♖g1 13. ♗d4 ♗ec6 14. ♜e1+ ♖h2 15. ♖h4 ♗gf3 16. ♜f1 ♗h1 The try to bring the king to the pat area is the only and last chance: 17. ♜f2+ ♗cg2 18. ♗e3 ♖g1 19. ♖g3 with mate in the next move.

5. ♜g3+ Of course White cannot allow ♗g4: 5... ♖h2 6. ♖e5 ♗g2 7. ♖f4 ♗cf3 8. ♗d4 ♗d1 9. ♜g7 ♗h5 10. ♗c5 Bringing the Black into a zugzwang.

Other much more difficult way of winning is 10. ♗e5!? with the same position that appears in the variation 11. ♜g7?!, which you will find lower. 10... ♗d1 (The rest is losing instantly 10... ♗c6 11. ♗d6 ♗cf3 12. ♜g3 ♗g2 13. ♖g5; and immediate 10... ♗gf3 loses because of 11. ♗g1+ ♖h1 12. ♖e3 ♗hg4 13. ♖f2 ♗e2 14. ♜e7 ♗h5 15. ♜e5 ♗hf3 16. ♜e3 ♗g4 17. ♜e4 and one of the bishops is forced to let the White's rook pass) 11. ♖e3 ♗gf3 With the idea to close the gateway with the B on g4. 12. ♗d6+ ♖h3 13. ♜g1! ♖h4 14. ♖f4 ♖h5 15. ♜g5+ letting Black in front of a difficult choice 15... ♖h4

Further travelling is quickly leading to a loss of a bishop: 15... ♖h6 16. ♖f5 ♗c2+ 17. ♖f6 ♗a4 18. ♗f4 ♗ac6 19. ♜e5+ ♖h7 20. ♜e7+ ♖g8 21. ♜c7+-